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EXAMINER

TRAN, PHILIP B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/191,277	Applicant(s) MATSUDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Philip B. Tran	Art Unit 2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 12-21, 23-28 and 31-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 12-21, 23-28 and 31-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on September 17, 2004. Claims 1, 7, 12-13, 21, 31 and 38 have been amended. Claims 8-11, 22 and 29-30 have been previously canceled. Claims 47-57 have been newly added. Therefore, claims 1-7, 12-21, 23-28 and 31-57 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 1 recites the limitation "said configuration information" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 21 recites the limitation "said priority level" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 26 recites the limitation "said device" in line 11. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 31 recites the limitation "said configuration information" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claims 47-57, It is not clear if only one of a plurality of states is required or some (or all) of the states are required. Since it is not clear, the examiner will assume that only one state is required as indicated in claim 47 and thus only one state is required for subsequent claims 48-57.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 7, 12-15, 19, 21, 25, 31, 37, and 47-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Danknick, U.S. Pat. No. 6,021,429.

Regarding claim 1, Danknick teaches a method for providing dynamic configuration services comprising:

requesting, with a local device, configuration services from a first remote device over a network in response to connecting the local device to the network (= transmitting a broadcast a packet the network device to request a list manager to determine whether a list manager is operating on the LAN) [see Col. 2, Lines 25-41 and Col. 15, Lines 1-5];

operating the local device (= network device) as a configuration services server (= list manager) to provide configuration services to one or more second remote devices of said network if the response to said configuration information request is not received by the local device from said first remote device within a predetermined period of time or if the response to said configuration information request is received by the local device from said first remote device within the predetermined period of time and the response indicates that the local device has a higher priority than the first remote device (=

controlling the network device to operate as the list manager for the LAN when there is no list manager is operating on the LAN and determining that no list manager on the LAN if a response to the broadcast packet is not received by the network device after the predetermined period of time) [see Figs. 5A-5B and Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 7-40 and Col. 10, Line 46 to Col. 11, Line 29 and Col. 15, Lines 5-9 and Col. 15, Lines 19-26] ; and

operating the local device as a configuration services client (= slave) to receive configuration services from said first remote device if the response is received within the predetermined period of time and said first remote device has a higher priority than said local device, wherein the local device is configured using the received configuration services from the first remote device when entering the network (= controlling network device to operate as a slave on the LAN when a list of manager is operating on the LAN and determining that a list manager is operating on the LAN if a response to the broadcast packet is received by the network device within the predetermined period of time and comparing addresses of devices to determine which device has higher address as a sole list manager for the LAN) [see Figs. 5A-5B and Col. 11, Lines 1-29 and Col. 15, Lines 13-18 and Col. 15, Line 65 to Col. 16, Line 10].

Regarding claim 7, Danknick further teaches the method defined in claim 1, wherein the local device operates as a server device providing configuration services to the network even if the first remote device is available, if the priority of the local device

is higher than the first remote device [see Fig. 5A-5B and Col. 11, Lines 1-52 and Col. 15, Line 65 to Col. 16, Line 10].

Regarding claim 12, Danknick teaches a method comprising:

determining service capability of a local device coupled to a network including whether said local device is capable of providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network (= transmitting a broadcast packet the network device to request a list manager to determine whether a list manager is operating on the LAN and providing device address to a list manager) [see Col. 2, Lines 25-41 and Col. 7, Lines 1-22 and Col. 15, Lines 1-5];

operating the local device (= network device) as a server device (= list manager) to provide configuration services to the one or more remote devices from the local device of said network if configuration services are not provided by a network device of the network having a higher priority than said local device, the provided configuration services including supplying user and group information to the one or more remote devices of the network (= controlling the network device to operate as the list manager for the LAN when there is no list manager is operating on the LAN and determining that no list manager on the LAN if a response to the broadcast packet is not received by the network device after the predetermined period of time and comparing addresses of devices to determine which device has higher address as a sole list manager for the LAN) [see Figs. 5A-5B and Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 7-40 and Col. 10, Line 46 to Col. 11, Line 29 and Col. 15, Lines 5-9 and Col. 15, Lines 19-26] ; and

operating said local device as a client device (= slave) to receive configuration services from a remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said local device, wherein the local device is configured using the received configuration services from the remote device when entering the network (= controlling network device to operate as a slave on the LAN when a list of manager is operating on the LAN and determining that a list manager is operating on the LAN if a response to the broadcast packet is received by the network device within the predetermined period of time and comparing addresses of devices to determine which device has higher address as a sole list manager for the LAN) [see Figs. 5A-5B and Col. 11, Lines 1-29 and Col. 15, Lines 13-18 and Col. 15, Line 65 to Col. 16, Line 10].

Regarding claim 13, Danknick further teaches the method defined in claim 12, wherein supplying user and group information comprises the network device detecting when said local device is connected to said network, the network device sending a first user and group list to said local device in response to said local device connecting to said network, said local device comparing said first user and group list with a second user and group list resident on said local device, and said local device determining whether said first user and group list or said second user and group list is more recent, the network device receiving a more recent user and group list from said local device, the network device updating said user and group information to reflect said more recent user and group list, and propagating said updated user and group information throughout said network (= broadcasting packet request to a list manager to determine

whether a list manager is operating on the LAN when the network device is connected to the network, providing device addresses to a list manager and keeping a list of device addresses current) [see Figs. 5A-5B & 8 and Col. 9, Line 61 to Col. 10, Line 45 and Col. 15, Lines 1-30].

Regarding claim 14, Danknick further teaches the method defined in claim 13, wherein a time-stamp is used to determine whether said first user and group list or said second user and group list is more recent (= list of device addresses includes expiration time) [see Col. 8, Lines 1-22].

Regarding claim 15, Danknick further teaches the method defined in claim 13, wherein updating said user and group information comprises recording said more recent user and group list in clear text (= keeping the list of device addresses current) [see Col. 10, Lines 25-45].

Regarding claim 19, Danknick further teaches the method defined in claim 12, wherein HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is used to exchange information (= World Wide Web and TCP/IP inherently indicate that HTTP is used to exchange information) [see Col. 5, Lines 4-5 and Col. 6, Line 65 to Col. 7, Line 14].

Regarding claim 21, Danknick teaches a device configured to:

receive a first network address from a remote device coupled over a network (= transmitting a broadcast a packet the network device to request a list manager to determine whether a list manager is operating on the LAN and providing device address to a list manager) [see Col. 2, Lines 25-41 and Col. 7, Lines 1-22 and Col. 15, Lines 1-5];

operate as a server device (= a list manager) to provide network configuration services if said first network address is not received from said remote device within a predetermined period of time, communicating with the remote device over the network to determine whether its priority level is higher than the remote device, if said first network address is received from said remote device, operate as a server device to provide said network configuration services to members of the network including the remote device if said priority level is higher than a second priority level of said remote device, wherein the remote device operates as a client device for receiving the configuration services in response to the determination of the priority level (= controlling the network device to operate as the list manager for the LAN when there is no list manager is operating on the LAN and determining that no list manager on the LAN if a response to the broadcast packet is not received by the network device after the predetermined period of time and comparing addresses of devices to determine which device has higher address as a sole list manager for the LAN) [see Figs. 5A-5B and Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 7-40 and Col. 10, Line 46 to Col. 11, Line 29 and Col. 15, Lines 5-9 and Col. 15, Lines 19-26] ; and

operate as a client device (= slave) to receive configuration services from said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device wherein said device is configured using the received configuration services from the remote device when entering the network (= controlling network device to operate as a slave on the LAN when a list of manager is operating on the LAN and determining that a list manager is operating on the LAN if a response to the broadcast packet is received by the network device within the predetermined period of time and comparing addresses of devices to determine which device has higher address as a sole list manager for the LAN) [see Figs. 5A-5B and Col. 11, Lines 1-29 and Col. 15, Lines 13-18 and Col. 15, Line 65 to Col. 16, Line 10].

Regarding claim 25, Danknick further teaches the device defined in claim 23, wherein said first and second network addresses comprise Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

Claim 31 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1.

Regarding claim 37, Danknick further teaches the apparatus defined in claim 31, wherein said predetermined period of time is varied [see Col. 9, Lines 30-50 and Col. 10, Lines 47-63].

Regarding claim 47, Danknick further teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the local device (= network device) is associated with one of a plurality of operating states including an initial state, non-master state, temporary master state, and a master state, wherein whether the local device should operate as a client device or a server device is determined based on the operating state the local device is being associated at a point in time (= controlling the network device to operate as the list manager or as a slave for the LAN) [see Figs. 5A-5B and Abstract and Col. 15, Lines 5-26].

Regarding claim 48, Danknick further teaches the method of claim 47, wherein the master state is assigned when the local device is configured to provide configuration services to the network (= a list manager or master device), wherein the initial state is assigned when the local device is manufactured, wherein the non-master state is assigned when the local device is configured as a server device but does not currently provide services to the network, and wherein temporary master state is assigned when the local device temporary provides configuration services to the network while a master server is unavailable and until the master server becomes available [see Figs. 5A-5B and Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 7-40 and Col. 10, Line 46 to Col. 11, Line 29 and Col. 11, Line 36 to Col. 12, Line 38 and Col. 15, Lines 5-26].

Regarding claim 49, Danknick further teaches the method of claim 47, wherein if the local device is in the master state when it enters the network, the local device operates as the configuration services server (= a list manager) to provide configuration

services to rest of the members in the network if the local device has a highest priority than the rest of the server devices in the network [see Figs. 5A-5B and Col. 15, Lines 1-30 and Col. 15, Line 63 to Col. 16, Line 10].

Regarding claim 50, Danknick further teaches the method of claim 49, wherein if the local device is not in the master state when it enters the network, the local device transmits a broadcast message to the network to request configuration services from any server device of the network [see Col. 12, Lines 1-38].

Regarding claims 51-52, Danknick further teaches the method of claim 50, wherein if a response associated with the request is received by the local device from the first remote device within a predetermined period of time, the local device transitions to the non-master state and operates as a client device (= slave) that receives the configuration services from the first remote device and is configured using the received configuration services, determining whether the local device is in the non-master state if the response is not received within the predetermined period of time, transitioning the local device into the temporary master state if the local device is in the non-master state, and operating the local device as a temporary configuration server to provide temporary configurations services to the network until a remote configuration server becomes available which takes over the temporary services provided from the local device [see Abstract and Figs. 5A-5B and Col. 15, Lines 1-30].

Regarding claim 53, Danknick further teaches the method of claim 52, further comprising the local device substantially concurrently transmitting a discovery message to the network to discover whether another server device becomes available, and the local device informing the network that no more new configuration service is available from the local device, if a response with respect to the discovery message is received by the local device from the another server device [see Abstract and Figs. 5A-5B and Col. 11, Line 13 to Col. 12, Line 38 and Col. 15, Lines 1-30 and Col. 16, Lines 16-62].

Regarding claims 54-55, Danknick further teaches the method of claim 53, further comprising the local device determining whether at least one other device of the network is still subscribing configuration services from the local device, and the local device terminating the configuration services if no more other device of the network is subscribing the configuration services from the local device and operating the local device as a client device to the another server device to receive further configuration services after terminating the configuration services of the local device [see Figs. 5A-5B and Col. 11, Line 13 to Col. 12, Line 38 and Col. 15, Lines 1-30].

Regarding claims 56-57, Danknick further teaches the method of claim 52, further comprising determining whether the local device is in the initial state if it is determined that the local device is not in the non-master state when the response is not received within the predetermined period of time, transitioning the local device into the master state if the local device was in the initial state, and operating the local device as

a server device to provide configuration services to the network, prompting a user for entering an operating state that the local device is intended to enter, and operating the local device as a temporary server device or a master server device if the user entered operating state is not a non-master state [see Abstract and Figs. 5A-5B and Col. 9, Line 50 to Col. 10, Line 45 and Col. 11, Lines 1-29 and Col. 15, Lines 1-30 and Col. 16, Lines 16-62].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 2-6, 16-18, 23-26, 32-36, 38-41, 43-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danknick, U.S. Pat. No. 6,021,429 in view of Lister et al (Hereafter, Lister), U.S. Pat. No. 6,167,44.

Regarding claim 2, Danknick further teaches the method defined in claim 1, wherein said providing configuration services with the local device comprises determining a first network address and assigning a second network address (= maintaining a list of device addresses for the LAN) [see Fig. 8 and Abstract and Col. 3, Lines 25-57]. Danknick does not explicitly teach assigning a network name, correlating said first network address, said second network address, and said network name, and recording said correlated first network address, said correlated second network address and said correlated network name in a table. However, Lister, in the same field of configuring devices in the network endeavor, discloses configuring network addresses/names and correlating network addresses/ names on a table [see Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 29-60 and Col. 17, Lines 15-31]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Lister's teaching of assigning a network name and correlating network addresses/names in the table into the Danknick's teaching of configuring and managing network devices in order to resolve network address/name services.

Regarding claim 3, Danknick further teaches the method defined in claim 2, wherein said first network address comprises a media access control (MAC) address [see Col. 7, Lines 1-22].

Regarding claim 4, Danknick further teaches the method defined in claim 2, wherein said second network address comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address [see Fig. 8 and Col. 7, Lines 1-22].

Regarding claim 5, Danknick does not explicitly teach the method defined in claim 2, wherein assigning said network name comprises detecting a network name conflict, resolving said network name conflict, and recording a code in said table to indicate said network name conflict [see Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 29-60 and Col. 17, Lines 15-31].

Regarding claim 6, Danknick does not explicitly teach said network name is suggested by said local device. However, Lister, in the same field of configuring devices in the network endeavor, discloses configuring network addresses/names and correlating network addresses/ names on a table [see Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 29-60 and Col. 17, Lines 15-31]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Lister's teaching of assigning a network name and correlating network addresses/names in the table into the Danknick's teaching of configuring and managing network devices in order to resolve network address/name services.

Regarding claim 16, Danknick further teaches the method defined in claim 15, wherein updating said user and group information comprises encrypting said user and group information prior to transmission across said network.

Regarding claim 17, Danknick does not explicitly teach correlating said network address and said network name, and storing said correlated network address and said correlated network name in a table. However, Lister, in the same field of configuring devices in the network endeavor, discloses configuring network addresses/names and correlating network addresses/ names on a table [see Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 29-60 and Col. 17, Lines 15-31]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Lister's teaching of assigning a network name and correlating network addresses/names in the table into the Danknick's teaching of configuring and managing network devices in order to resolve network address/name services.

Claim 18 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 6.

Claim 23 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 2.

Claim 24 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to combination of claims 3 and 5.

Claim 25 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 4.

Regarding claim 26, Danknick teaches a network comprising:

determine service capability of said second device on said network, wherein if said first device is capable of providing configuration services to said network (= transmitting a broadcast a packet the network device to request a list manager to determine whether a list manager is operating on the LAN and providing device address to a list manager) [see Col. 2, Lines 25-41 and Col. 7, Lines 1-22 and Col. 15, Lines 1-5];

operate as a server device to provide configuration services to one or more devices of said network if configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than said device (= controlling the network device to operate as the list manager for the LAN when there is no list manager is operating on the LAN and determining that no list manager on the LAN if a response to the broadcast packet is not received by the network device after the predetermined period of time and comparing addresses of devices to determine which device has higher address as a sole list manager for the LAN) [see Figs. 5A-5B and Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 7-40 and Col. 10, Line 46 to Col. 11, Line 29 and Col. 15, Lines 5-9 and Col. 15, Lines 19-26] ; and

operate as a client device to receive configuration services from said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device, wherein the first device is configured using the received configuration services from the remote device when entering the network (= controlling network device to operate as a slave on the LAN when a list of manager is operating on the LAN and determining that a list manager is operating on the LAN if a response to the broadcast packet is received by the network

device within the predetermined period of time and comparing addresses of devices to determine which device has higher address as a sole list manager for the LAN) [see Figs. 5A-5B and Col. 11, Lines 1-29 and Col. 15, Lines 13-18 and Col. 15, Line 65 to Col. 16, Line 10].

Danknick further teaches assigning an address to a second device on the network and supplying user and group information across the network (= providing device addresses to a list manager and maintaining a list of device addresses for the LAN) [see Fig. 8 and Abstract and Col. 3, Lines 25-57]. Danknick does not explicitly teach assigning a network name. However, Lister, in the same field of configuring devices in the network endeavor, discloses configuring network addresses/names and correlating network addresses/ names on a table [see Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 29-60 and Col. 17, Lines 15-31]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Lister's teaching of assigning a network name and correlating network addresses/names in the table into the Danknick's teaching of configuring and managing network devices in order to resolve network address/name services.

Claims 32-36 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 2-6, respectively.

Claim 38 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 26.

Regarding claim 39, Danknick further teaches the apparatus defined in claim 38, wherein the means for supplying user and group information comprises means for detecting when said local device is connected to said network, means for sending a first user and group list to said local device in response to said local device connecting to said network, means for said local device comparing said first user and group list with a second user and group list resident on said local device, and means for said local device determining whether said first user and group list or said second user and group list is more recent, means for receiving a more recent user and group list from said local device, means for updating said user and group information to reflect said more recent user and group list, and means for propagating said updated user and group information throughout said network (= broadcasting packet request to a list manager to determine whether a list manager is operating on the LAN when the network device is connected to the network, providing device addresses to a list manager and keeping a list of device addresses current) [see Figs. 5A-5B & 8 and Col. 9, Line 61 to Col. 10, Line 45 and Col. 15, Lines 1-30].

Regarding claim 40, Danknick further teaches the apparatus defined in claim 39, wherein a time-stamp is used to determine whether said first user and group list or said second user and group list is more recent (= list of device addresses includes expiration time) [see Col. 8, Lines 1-22].

Regarding claim 41, Danknick further teaches the apparatus defined in claim 39, wherein means for updating said user and group information comprises means for recording said more recent user and group list in clear text (= keeping the list of device addresses current) [see Col. 10, Lines 25-45].

Regarding claim 43, Danknick does not explicitly teach means for correlating said network address and said network name, and means for storing said correlated network address and said correlated network name in a table. However, Lister, in the same field of configuring devices in the network endeavor, discloses configuring network addresses/names and correlating network addresses/ names on a table [see Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 29-60 and Col. 17, Lines 15-31]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Lister's teaching of assigning a network name and correlating network addresses/names in the table into the Danknick's teaching of configuring and managing network devices in order to resolve network address/name services.

Regarding claim 44, Danknick does not explicitly teach said network name is suggested by said local device. However, Lister, in the same field of configuring devices in the network endeavor, discloses configuring network addresses/names and correlating network addresses/ names on a table [see Abstract and Col. 9, Lines 29-60 and Col. 17, Lines 15-31]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Lister's teaching of assigning a

network name and correlating network addresses/names in the table into the Danknick's teaching of configuring and managing network devices in order to resolve network address/name services.

Regarding claim 45, Danknick further teaches the apparatus defined in claim 38, wherein HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is used to exchange information (= World Wide Web and TCP/IP inherently indicate that HTTP is used to exchange information) [see Col. 5, Lines 4-5 and Col. 6, Line 65 to Col. 7, Line 14].

8. Claims 27-28 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danknick, U.S. Pat. No. 6,021,429 in view of Lister et al (Hereafter, Lister), U.S. Pat. No. 6,167,44 and further in view of Brown et al (Hereafter, Brown), U.S. Pat. No. 6,618,806.

Regarding claim 27-28, Danknick further teaches a list of members allowed access to group (list of device addresses) [see Col. 9, Line 50 to Col. 10, Line 8] and a time stamp (= expiration time) [see Col. 10, Lines 9-25]. Lister further teaches a group name [see Abstract]. Danknick and Lister do not explicitly teach the user and group information comprises a user name, a password, and a character encoding code and wherein said password is recorded in clear text. However, Brown, in the same field of configuring users endeavor, discloses user name, password and encryption [see Col. 8, Lines 7-24]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Brown into the system of

Danknick and Lister in order to authenticate the users in the group and provide user and group information to a list manager in a more secured fashion.

Regarding claim 42, Danknick and Lister do not explicitly teach means for encrypting said user and group information prior to transmission across said network. However, Brown, in the same field of configuring users endeavor, discloses user name, password and encryption [see Col. 8, Lines 7-24]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Brown into the system of Danknick and Lister in order to authenticate the users in the group and provide user and group information to a list manager in a more secured fashion.

9. Claims 20 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danknick, U.S. Pat. No. 6,021,429 in view of Lister et al (Hereafter, Lister), U.S. Pat. No. 6,167,44 and further in view of Rosenberg et al (Hereafter, Rosenberg), U.S. Pat. No. 6,446,108.

Regarding claim 20, Danknick and Lister do not explicitly teach Service Location Protocol (SLP) is used to exchange information. However, Rosenberg, in the same field of network service location endeavor, discloses Service Location Protocol (SLP) is used to exchange information and locate a particular service [see Col. 5, Lines 55-67]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Rosenberg into the system of Danknick and

Lister because it would have enabled the users to efficiently and quickly locate servers and other network devices connected to the network during discovering process.

Regarding claim 46, Danknick and Lister do not explicitly teach Service Location Protocol (SLP) is used to exchange information. However, Rosenberg, in the same field of network service location endeavor, discloses Service Location Protocol (SLP) is used to exchange information and locate a particular service [see Col. 5, Lines 55-67]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Rosenberg into the system of Danknick and Lister because it would have enabled the users to efficiently and quickly locate servers and other network devices connected to the network during discovering process.

Conclusion

10. A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. FAILURE TO RESPOND WITHIN THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE WILL CAUSE THE APPLICATION TO BECOME ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). EXTENSIONS OF TIME MAY BE OBTAINED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 37 CAR 1.136(A).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-3991. The Group fax phone number is (703) 872-9306. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne, can be reached on (571) 272-4001.

12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Apr 29, 2005